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FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. FRECHETTE
(Vice-President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Uganda (A/48/248)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional agenda item entitled "Emergency assistance to Uganda". The representative of Uganda had expressed the desire to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Kamunanwire (Uganda) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Mr. KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda) thanked the President of the General Assembly for his message of sympathy addressed to the Ugandan Government and people following the earthquake which had devastated the western part of the country on 6 February 1994 and caused eight deaths. He recalled that, owing to resource constraints and weak institutional capacity in the area of disaster preparedness, Uganda could not by itself meet the massive requirements of the affected population in terms of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and development, and therefore needed assistance from the United Nations system and the international community as a whole. Accordingly, his Government hoped that its request for the inclusion of the said item in the agenda of the current session would receive unanimous support.

4. Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) expressed sympathy to Uganda, on behalf of the Sri Lankan Government and people, in the wake of the disaster which had left thousands homeless and deprived of health care and means of communication. His country feared that the disaster would have a huge impact on Uganda's environment and economy and it fully supported the request for the inclusion of the relevant item in the agenda of the current session.

5. Mrs. VASISHT (India) said that her country was especially able to understand the suffering of the Ugandan people inasmuch as India itself had recently been the victim of a natural disaster from which it had not yet fully recovered. Her delegation therefore unconditionally supported Uganda's request.

6. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, welcomed the emergency measures already taken by Uganda and expressed the hope that the international community would be called upon to respond generously and swiftly to a situation which required financial, human and material resources. He therefore supported Uganda's request and hoped that it would be taken up at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

7. Mr. HADID (Algeria) expressed heartfelt sympathies, on behalf of his country, to the Ugandan delegation in the aftermath of the natural disaster which had struck that fraternal country, and support for Uganda's request.

8. Mr. CHEN Jian (China) said that his country sympathized with Uganda's plight and appreciated the efforts made by the Ugandan Government to provide relief to the population. His delegation supported the request for the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

9. Mr. CASTELLANOS-CARRILLO (Guatemala) endorsed the statements made by the preceding speakers and supported Uganda's request.

10. Mr. MUSUKA (Zambia) associated himself with the expressions of sympathy addressed to Uganda by the Group of African States and Algeria and welcomed the fact that attention had been drawn to Uganda's situation. In view of the serious impact which the disaster could have on the environment, his delegation supported the request for the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

11. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

12. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should consider the item directly in plenary meeting on a priority basis.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.